



# DENY?



The National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) is a descriptor-based name search. If you believe you have been **erroneously denied** a firearm transfer based on a match to a record returned by the NICS, you may submit an appeal of your deny decision.

The agency which processed your NICS transaction is required to have an appeal process. You may make application first to the **denying agency**, i.e., either the state or local law enforcement agency that processed your transaction. As an alternative to appealing directly through the denying agency, you may elect to submit your appeal request to the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division's NICS Section.

The **NICS Appeal Web site** was established to help guide NICS **Denied** appellants through the appeal process. The appellant also has the opportunity to apply online.

<http://www.fbi.gov/nics-appeals>

You will be notified via U.S. mail once the status of your appeal is determined.

#### Check out what the NICS Appeal Web site has to offer:

- Downloadable Appeal Brochure
- Downloadable Fingerprint Card
- Appeal Request Form
- Appeal Frequently Asked Questions
- **Submit your Appeal online**

For customers with no internet access, the NICS Section will send an appeal packet via U.S. mail. For an appeal packet or general questions, call the NICS Customer Service at **1-877-FBI-NICS** (324-6427).

## NICS Transaction Number (NTN):



# DELAY?



The Voluntary Appeal File (VAF) was established to permit **delayed** applicants to request the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) maintain information about themselves in the VAF if denials are continuously overturned or to prevent **extended delays** of a firearm transfer.

The **NICS Appeal/VAF Web site** was established to help guide NICS **Delayed** applicants through the VAF process and allow them to download an application.

<http://www.fbi.gov/nics-appeals>

VAF applicants will be notified via U.S. mail if their application qualifies for entry into the VAF. Entry into the VAF will not automatically result in a proceed response on subsequent firearm purchases. A complete NICS check is still required and will result in a denial if additional prohibiting information is discovered.

#### Check out what the NICS VAF Web site has to offer:

- **Downloadable VAF Brochure/Application**
- Downloadable Fingerprint Card
- VAF Application
- VAF Frequently Asked Questions

**Note:** Your completed VAF application, applicant's statement, and fingerprint card **must** be mailed to the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division's NICS Section.

The NICS Section will send a VAF Packet via U.S. mail to customers with no internet access: For a VAF Packet or general questions, call the NICS Customer Service at **1-877-FBI-NICS** (324-6427).

## NICS Transaction Number (NTN):